

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 19, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1726

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

February 24, 2006

An act to ~~amend Section 25350 of~~ *add Section 25353 to* the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1726, as amended, Lowenthal. Vehicles: commercial and common carriers: identification ~~lamps and signs.~~

(1) Existing law requires buses to be equipped with identification lamps and signs and lighting, as specified.

Existing law makes violation of operating provisions of the Vehicle Code a crime.

This bill would authorize buses, operated by a publicly owned transit system on regularly scheduled service, to be equipped with certain illuminated signs, as specified. The bill would require that the illuminated signs adhere to certain specifications; and would thereby create a new crime and impose a state-mandated local program.

~~(1) Existing law authorizes passenger common carrier motor vehicles, manufactured before January 1, 1968, to be equipped with green identification lamps~~

~~Existing law makes violation of operating provisions of the Vehicle Code a crime.~~

~~This bill would delete the authorization that passenger common carrier motor vehicles, manufactured before January 1, 1968, to be equipped with green identification lamps; and would thereby create a new crime and impose a state-mandated local program.~~

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 25353 is added to the Vehicle Code, to
2 read:

3 25353. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 25400 and 25950, a bus
4 operated by a publicly owned transit system on regularly
5 scheduled service may be equipped with illuminated destination
6 signs, illuminated route-number signs, illuminated run-number
7 signs, or a combination thereof, visible from any direction of the
8 vehicle, that emit any light color pursuant to the following
9 conditions:

10 (1) Each illuminated destination sign, illuminated
11 route-number sign, or illuminated run-number sign shall emit
12 diffused nonglaring light of not more than 0.05 candela per
13 square inch of area during nighttime conditions. Verification of
14 this luminance specification may be made by measuring the
15 average luminous intensity and dividing this intensity by the total
16 display area of the sign.

17 (2) Each illuminated destination sign, illuminated
18 route-number sign, or illuminated run-number sign shall be
19 limited in size to a display area of not greater than 720 square
20 inches.

21 (3) Each illuminated destination sign, illuminated
22 route-number sign, or illuminated run-number sign shall not
23 resemble or be installed in a position that interferes with the
24 visibility or effectiveness of a required lamp, reflector, or other
25 device upon the vehicle.

26 (b) Dynamic messaging is permitted on all illuminated
27 destination signs, illuminated route-number signs, and
28 illuminated run-number signs, if the practice adheres to the
29 following requirements:

1 (1) “Paging,” meaning character elements or other
2 information presented for a period of time and then disappearing
3 all at once before the same or new elements are presented, is
4 permitted if the display time of each message is between 2.7 and
5 10 seconds. Blanking times between each message shall be
6 between 0.5 and 25 seconds.

7 (2) “Streaming,” meaning character elements or other
8 information moving smoothly and continuously across an LED
9 display, is permitted if the character movement time, from one
10 end of the display to the other, is at least 2.7 seconds, and the
11 movement time of the entire message does not exceed 10 seconds.

12 ~~SECTION 1. Section 25350 of the Vehicle Code is amended~~
13 ~~to read:~~

14 ~~25350. — A bus may be equipped with an illuminated termini~~
15 ~~sign, an illuminated identification sign, or any combination~~
16 ~~thereof, that shall not project any glaring light. Internally~~
17 ~~illuminated termini signs, identification signs, or any~~
18 ~~combination thereof, meeting the requirements of Section 25400~~
19 ~~may be mounted inside a bus. A commercial vehicle, other than a~~
20 ~~passenger common carrier motor vehicle, may be equipped with~~
21 ~~an illuminated identification sign upon the front thereof which~~
22 ~~shall not exceed 24 inches in length or 8 inches in width and~~
23 ~~which emits diffused white light without glare.~~

24 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
25 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
26 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
27 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
28 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the
29 penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section
30 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a
31 crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the
32 California Constitution.